

Minutes from a Meeting of the Concordia Council on Student Life Held on Friday, 21 January 1994 at 12:30 p.m. in the Hall Building, Room 771.

Present: Dr. D.L. Boisvert, Chair; Mr. K. Lowther; Dr. S.M. Graub; Ms. N. Torbit; Mr. A. Ghaemi; Ms. L. Grimes; Mr. D. Leib; Mr. P. Dalton; Ms. C. Fortier; Mr. B. Counihan; Ms. J. Brown; Mr. R. Côté; Mr. V. Pavlicik; Mr. H. Zarins; Ms. A. Kerby; Ms. J. Chegrinec, (secretary).

Absent with regrets: Ms. L. Nicholson; Ms. J. Davies; Mr. A. Switzer; Dr. B. Litner.

Guest: Dr. R. Bonin, Director, University Libraries.

1. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Ghaemi requested that a letter received from The Concordian be placed on the agenda. He agreed to the suggestion that it be placed under item 7a). On a motion by Ms. Grimes, seconded by Mr. Ghaemi, the agenda was approved.
2. Chair's Remarks: Dr. Boisvert announced that the Board of Governors, at the 19 January meeting, had approved the final two years of the Student Services Budget for 1994/95 and 1995/96, including the proposed increases in the fees. The Board expressed its view that the 3-year budget concept, tabled by Student Services, was an excellent idea, and requested that the method be employed for the following 3-year cycle. To accomplish this, planning for the next budget cycle will commence in the Fall of 1994. Dr. Boisvert expressed his thanks to the student members of Council who are Governors for supporting the budget as well as the proposed increases.
3. Approval of Minutes from the Meeting of 19 November 1993: Ms. Torbit advised of the following changes under the Director of Health Services' Report: the proposed renovations will be done in the waiting room on the SGW Campus; the wording should be peer educators not peer helpers. On a motion by Mr. Dalton, seconded by Ms. Torbit, the minutes, as amended, were approved.
4. Business Arising from the Minutes: **a) Responses to various concerns raised:** The Chair commented briefly on the responses from the Associate Vice-Rector, Services (Physical Environment) and Mr. G. Buchanan, Computing Services and asked for Council's reaction. Mr. Ghaemi, Ms. Kerby, Mr. Leib, and Mr. Pavlicik expressed the following opinions: Mr. Ghaemi pointed out that contrary to Dr. Barlow's assertion, the clocks in the Hall Building were not in sync, and some were broken; also if, as written in Dr. Barlow's document, the ventilation system in the Hall Building may have to be reduced for any reason, that Council's input in the decision be sought. Ms. Kerby reiterated her plea for student representation on the Air Quality Task Force, where the students' concerns over the ventilation could be addressed.

CUSA will ensure that a student representative will attend. In regards to the Computing Services update, Mr. Leiby requested that student input be included in decisions taken by Computer Services when setting up the Computer Labs. Mr. Pavlicik said that he has not noticed any improvement in the cleanliness of the Victoria Gym.

6. Student Life Issues: Dr. R. Bonin, Director of Libraries, invited guest: On agreement of Council to return to items 4 b) and 5, the meeting proceeded directly to item 6. Dr. Bonin was introduced by the Chair. Dr. Bonin advised Council that he had requested the opportunity to meet with Council to develop a dialogue with CCSL before any major problems or areas of confrontation arise. He stated that the funding for the library "was not good", and that if funding was not increased to meet new initiatives, then decisions between priorities will have to be made. It was clearly stated that the MacLean's survey was absolutely correct in its reporting of the collection - "the collection is lousy, with a lot of obsolete information". Even though the philosophy of Concordia has resulted in longer opening hours, this may have to change and hours be cut. The ratio of professional staff to students is the lowest in the survey. Only 5.8% of the total operating budget is allocated to the library, an amount that has been decreasing annually. Dr. Bonin indicated that 6% of the operating budget should be allocated, but this will not be easy to achieve when budgets remain static or will suffer further reduction. If students are concerned they should begin to make themselves heard. Dr. Bonin explained that he was attending Council to elicit feedback and any suggestions on his comments. Mr. Ghaemi, Ms. Kerby, Mr. Leiby, Mr. Dalton, Ms. Grimes and Mr. Counihan addressed the issue.

In response to questions raised, Dr. Bonin stated that one of the priorities of the library is to reduce duplication, especially in the journals, and he acknowledges that the collection is better in areas where the University is recognized as holding a certain amount of expertise, i.e., Fine Arts. If the Capital Campaign was able to raise \$2m for the libraries, Dr. Bonin would prefer that it be put into an endowment with the interest being utilized to cover expenses, otherwise the total amount would be spent immediately on recurring expenses, such as purchasing access licenses. It was acknowledged that Annual Giving has been very generous, giving all the proceeds from the Phonathon to the Libraries. Mr. Ghaemi asked whether or not all the monies raised from fines goes directly into the library and was told that indirectly it does. Council was informed that when it is time for decisions of prioritization to be taken that the University Library Committee would, in all probability, be the starting point. Although Dr. Bonin could not give the amount of usage by hours, he did indicate that the total usage of both libraries has increased considerably. The library may consider conducting a survey of hourly usage which may also indicate the number of outside individuals who use the facilities. Mr. Dalton expressed his concern that if library hours were

cut, it would seriously affect those individuals who rely on the facility for use as a study centre. Consequently, he expressed the opinion that the University should, if the hours have to be cut, provide study space.

Ms. Grimes stated that she found it unacceptable that the Library should have to “look within itself” to generate funds, and strongly recommended that the University as a whole be encouraged to make cuts which would enable the Library to expand and build a better reputation. Dr. Bonin responded that he was not adverse to the Library reviewing its own spending habits, since that’s the time when more efficient methods can be introduced. He also said that Council cannot rule out the fact that the University will place the Library among its top priorities when the time comes to identify new initiatives for funding. Ms. Grimes stated though, that the Libraries needed immediate help and commitment, not vague promises.

Dr. Bonin was also informed that the frustration faced by students in the Hall Building with broken and out of sync clocks was also the case in the Library. He is aware of the problem. Council was informed that all employees are unionized and therefore no student employees can be hired. The issue of the exorbitant costs of textbooks was raised, and Dr. Bonin was asked if the library could accommodate copies of textbooks if they should be donated. He will examine the issue, but in response to the suggestion that professors supply their publishers’ copies he felt there may be a problem of an ethical nature, but he did agree that a way around the issue could be to have them donate the publishers’ copies to the used bookstore.

Ms. Grimes suggested that Dr. Bonin may like to meet with the Student Caucus of Senate, to which Dr. Bonin agreed. On behalf of Council, the Chair expressed thanks and appreciation to Dr. Bonin.

- 4.b) Business Arising from the Minutes - Report of the Task Force on Senate Reform: Mr. Leiby distributed a discussion page on the response to Senate. Mr. Leiby, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Counihan, Mr. Lowther, and Ms. Kerby addressed the issue. Mr. Leiby began by informing Council that the sub-committee composed of himself, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Lowther and Ms. Grimes had been unable to meet. Consequently he had prepared the outline himself and reviewed it quickly with Mr. Dalton prior to the meeting. It was agreed that since the report will not be addressed at Senate until at least the March meeting, a more formal response will be prepared and tabled at the next meeting of CCSL. Comments on the points were as follows: Mr. Dalton pointed out that the response was very student-oriented, which raised no objection with the rest of Council. It was stated that it would be totally appropriate for CCSL to address areas of the report which have a direct effect on student concerns and this in fact should be the main focus of the response. It was agreed that too much diversification may dilute the attention given to

those concerns. Ms. Kerby also mentioned that CCSL's response should take into effect other reports so that there is no contradiction. It was agreed that recommendations should be followed with suggestions on how best to accomplish them. Another issue raised was the number of committees and task forces that are being called, and the difficulty of students, faculty and administration to properly support all of them. It was recommended that the status of individuals (i.e., 1 part-time student), be excluded as, historically, it has been proven that students would be given the minimum requested and never any more than that.

It was agreed that a more formal response will be drafted and forwarded to the Chair before the next Council meeting so it can be included with the documentation. Any recommendations can be forwarded to Mr. Dalton or Mr. Leiby.

5. Report from the Planning and Resources Committee: Mr. Ghaemi distributed and reviewed the minutes for the January meeting.

a) Interest fees charged to International Students: Mr. Ghaemi requested that CCSL consider the formal motion put forward by the P&R Committee. It was done after the balance of the report.

b) Internal communication at Concordia: Ms. Kerby, Mr. Dalton, and Ms. Grimes, addressed this issue and offered the following comments and suggestions: that progress is slowly being made on providing emergency telephones and that a PA system currently exists in the McConnell building as well as a limited system in the Hall building. The policy that no paper posting be allowed was questioned; Council understands that the policy is in response to a city ordinance, but asked whether anyone had ever requested a waiver on the ordinance. It was also mentioned that free ads for important information in the student newspapers could be a way of promoting better communication.

c) Availability of Directors and Administrators to the Average Student: The Chair informed Council that he discussed this matter with Mr. Ghaemi, and a pilot project will be launched.

d) Student Representation: No comments at this time.

e) Other Areas of Concerns: Mr. Leiby tabled an idea for developing a magazine to be used by the University community to express their opinions on University-related issues. The cost of producing 1000 copies of the magazine would run between \$2,600 - \$3,100. Ms. Brown requested clarification, and it was agreed that Mr. Leiby would bring a more detailed proposal forward at the next CCSL meeting. Mr. Lowther pointed out that an

editorial policy would have to be enforced.

Return to item a): The following motion was moved by Ms. Fortier, and seconded by Mr. Zarins:

Be it resolved that interest fees for international students be calculated on the equivalent Canadian tuition rather than on the differential tuition fees as is the current practice.

Ms. Fortier, Ms. Grimes, Dr. Boisvert, Ms. Kerby, Mr. Counihan, Mr. Côté, Mr. Dalton, and Mr. Lowther were involved in the following discussion.

Ms. Fortier explained the history connected to this motion. The substance of the motion has been rejected before; at that time, Ms. Fortier was informed that the equipment necessary to compute the transaction was not available. She offered an explanation on the terms "Canadian tuition" and the "differential tuition" fees. Ms. Fortier is asking Council to support the request for equity for International Students. It was agreed that if the motion was carried, Dr. Boisvert would forward it to Dr. Cohen, Vice-Rector, Institutional Relations & Finance. It was suggested that precise figures be obtained before taking the motion to either the Vice-Rector or the Board of Governors.

Mr. Côté recommended the following change in the motion:

Be it resolved that the Concordia Council on Student Life recommends that interest fees for international students be calculated on the equivalent Canadian tuition rather than on the differential tuition fees as is the current practice.

The wording was agreed to and Ms. Fortier will provide the necessary figures to Dr. Boisvert. A vote on the motion was taken.

In Favour - unanimous

Opposed - 0

Abstention - 0

Motion was carried as amended.

6. Student Life Issues - Continued: Ms. Grimes, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Pavlicik, Mr. Ghaemi, Mr. Lowther, Ms. Brown, Ms. Kerby, Ms. Torbit, Mr. Côté, Dr. Boisvert, Mr. Leib and Mr. Counihan addressed the following issues:

- Lack of fresh water in the TJ building for Theatre students;
- non-operating escalators in the Hall Building - unauthorized individuals using emergency stop buttons for their own convenience is the major

problem;

- major traffic flow problems on and off escalators - it was suggested that "Keep Right" signs be posted for escalator use;
- during recent cold weather, classrooms in various buildings are not heated adequately, resulting in people having to wear coats and hats during class, or classes being terminated due to intolerable conditions.

Council agreed to the suggestion by the Chair that he invite Dr. Barlow to a meeting of Council to address the many issues revolving around the physical environment area.

Mr. Lowther informed Council that the Graduate Students' Association had elected a new President, Mr. J.-F. Plamondon.

Other issues raised were:

- smoking in the cafeteria - if smoking in the area cannot be controlled then examine the possibility of re-opening a smoking room. Council was informed by Dr. Boisvert that this simply was not open for discussion since the smoking policy had been adopted by the University. Mr. Dalton stated that students may be considering petitioning and demonstrations.
- student representation on all committees emanating from the Board of Governors.

This point resulted from the recent media coverage of Dr. P. Kenniff and subsequent student requests to the Board of Governors that student representatives be invited to sit on the Senior Salaries Committee and the Benefits Committee. The discussion of the issue raised the following points: Mr. Lowther will carry the motion to the Graduate Students' Association as he feels it is an issue that affects student representation on all University committees. Confidentiality and parity issues were raised, especially on the two committees which were of major concern to CUSA. The students felt though that this was a matter of principle, as if students should only be allowed to sit on committees approved by senior administration. The Chair suggested that a motion be drafted which would elicit Council support for representation. Both Mr. Counihan and Mr. Lowther ascertained that Council has consistently supported students' right to participate in all aspects of the University and that this motion should be supported.

The following motion was moved by Ms. Grimes, and seconded by Mr. Leib:

Be it resolved that the Concordia Council on Student Life recommends that all committees emanating from the Board of Governors have student representation.

A vote on the motion was taken: In favour 13, Opposed 0, Abstentions: 1.
Motion was carried.

7. **New Business:** a) **Task Force on the Evaluation of Teaching and the Teaching Dossier.** The Chair stated that Council may wish to comment at some point on this document and opened the floor to discussion. Mr. Leiby and Mr. Dalton responded. Mr. Leiby inquired about the enhancement of teaching memorandum from B. McKay to D.L. Boisvert and if anything ever resulted. Dr. Boisvert recalled that it had been discussed at Senate and it was agreed that Mr. Noonan, Secretary of Senate, would be asked for any pertinent information. To the question of whether Council wishes to respond, it was agreed that a response would be prepared following receipt of the Task Force's report.

b) **Canadian University Student Exchange Consortium:** The Chair asked if Council approved of the suggestion and, if so, whether or not it was willing to provide the financing. Ms. Grimes, Mr. Côté, Ms. Kerby, Ms. Fortier, Mr. Dalton, Mr. Counihan, and Mr. Leiby responded. It was agreed in principal that the suggestion had merit and should be supported by Council. Council did not feel however that this was strictly a Student Services' concern; it was perceived as much more of an academic issue and, although CCSL would be willing to contribute a nominal amount, it was recommended that the Chair advise the Office of the Rector that CCSL recommends membership in the consortium, but that most of the financing should come from the academic sector.

c) **Other: Letter from Mark Crncich, Editor-in-chief, The Concordian:** Mr. Ghaemi distributed the letter from Mr. Crncich, which was duly noted in the minutes. The Chair stated that the motion passed by Council on the equal utilization of both student newspapers by Faculties for placing ads was forwarded to the Deans. Mr. Dalton, Mr. Ghaemi, Mr. Counihan, Mr. Lowther, Ms. Kerby, and Mr. Côté addressed the issue. It was agreed that the issue should be tabled at the Arts & Science Faculty Council. Suggestions were made that Mr. Crncich contact Dr. Carter directly, using Council's recommendation as backup material. The Chair agreed to write to Dr. S. Carter, forwarding Mr. Crncich's letter, and remind her of Council's recommendation.

d) **Student Life Awards:** The following motion was moved by Mr. Counihan, and seconded by Mr. Zarins:

Be it resolved that the Concordia Council on Student Life offer again in 1994 its awards for Outstanding Contributions to Student Life at the University;

Be it further resolved that CCSL recognize excellence in teaching by expanding its awards programme to include specific awards to faculty members;

Be it further resolved that a sub-committee of CCSL be established to select the recipients of the CCSL Awards. The membership of this committee should include:

- two undergraduate students
- one graduate student
- one faculty member from CCSL
- one Student Services staff member from CCSL
- the Dean of Students as chair

Mr. Lowther, Mr. Côté, Ms. Kerby, Mr. Counihan, Dr. Graub, Mr. Zarins, Mr. Pavlicik, Mr. Leib, Ms. Brown, and Ms. Torbit contributed to the discussion on the motion.

Mr. Counihan explained that the change concerning teaching awards was to address Council's stated intention to recognize excellence in teaching. Mr. Lowther proposed the motion be amended to read, "one teaching award"; the proposed amendment was seconded by Mr. Dalton. The following discussion addressed the amendment with arguments being presented for and against. A vote was taken on the amendment: In Favour - 3, Opposed - 8, Abstentions - 2. The amendment was defeated.

Council then addressed the main motion. In Favour - 9, Opposed - 1, Abstentions 3. The motion was carried.

It was agreed that the Committee make recommendations to Council, and that it would be preferable to be able to distribute teaching awards in April of this year. The Committee was struck immediately with Ms. Brown and Ms. Grimes representing the undergraduate students, Dr. Litner as the Council faculty member, Mr. Pavlicik as the Student Services' staff member, and Mr. Lowther will ask the GSA to provide a graduate student representative.

8. Reports from Directors: a) **Mid-Year Budget Update:** The Chair distributed the 7-month budget report on the Student Services' overall status by area, and opened the floor to questions.

Mr. Lowther inquired how Bill 102 had affected the budget, and that if any surplus was to exist at year end, that a trust account be established to ensure that the monies stayed within the area. The Chair assured him that the 1993-94 budget would bottom line at 0 but, he would raise the issue with Dr. Cohen over any surplus that may arise from the 1994-95, 1995-96 budgets. Mr. Lowther also stated that graduate students were complaining about the Student Services' fees. Dr. Boisvert stated that he would report on some

budget adjustments at the next meeting of Council. In response to Mr. Leibu's questions regarding the high expenditures of Recreation and Athletics, Mr. Zarins explained that 66% of the costs generated by the area occur in the first six to seven months of the year

Financial Aid & Awards: Mr. Côté informed Council of the following issues:

- extra staff has been utilized during the past peak period, cutting the waiting time from 2 hours to 15 minutes;
- policy procedures in Québec are changing and the Director is concerned that student input is not being received; he stated that he would like some communication with students on the issue and, ads would be appearing in the student press;
- it was announced that in-house bursaries would be selected soon.

Health Services: Nothing to report.

Recreation & Athletics: On behalf of Mr. Zarins, Mr. Pavlicik announced the Royal Challenge hockey game to be held at the Montréal forum on February 8th.

Counselling & Development: The noted increase in student requests for help has been continuing. The Careers Library has been much busier than usual for this time of year.

Advocacy & Support Services: Any comments members may have regarding the Rights and Responsibilities Task Force documents, please contact Ms. Kerby.

Meetings with the architect to begin using the government monies received for developing full disabled accessibility for University buildings have begun.

Dean of Students: Dean Counihan had to leave the meeting prior to his report.

9. Termination of Meeting: On a motion by Mr. Leibu, seconded by Ms. Grimes, the meeting terminated at 3:40 p.m.
10. Next Meeting: The next meeting of CCSL will be held **Friday, 18 February 1994, Loyola Campus, AD-131 at 12:30 p.m.** If unable to attend please advise J. Chegrinec, 4816.